

**The email below will be read during the Public Comment period
at the Executive Committee meeting on October 29, 2019**

To: Members of the SCDD Executive Committee
From: Rick Wood, Member of the SDSAC and Chair of Kern Regional Center SD Local Advisory Committee
Re: Reconsideration of Rejection of Request by SDSAC to Authorize the Establishment of SSDAC Coordinating Committee
Date: October 22, 2019

On June 10-11, 2019, the members of the SDSAC participated in a two-day strategic planning session which was facilitated by Elizabeth Harrell on behalf of DDS. At the conclusion of the session, the members of the SDSAC unanimously approved five separate goals, one of which I understand was presented to the SCDD Executive Committee for endorsement and approval on June 18, 2019. Goal #1, which is to establish a coordinating committee of the SSDAC, was rejected. I request, on behalf of myself and members of the SDSAC, that the Executive Committee reconsider its decision to reject Goal #1, for the following reasons: First, Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4685.8(x)(2) ("W&I Section") provides that the SCDD shall form a volunteer committee comprised of the chairs of the 21 local advisory committees or their designees. The SCDD shall convene the SDSAC twice annually, or more frequently in the discretion of the SCDD. That has occurred. The SDSAC has been meeting for in excess of three years. Second, the W&I Section provides that the function of the SDSAC is to "identify self-determination best practices, effective consumer and family training materials, implementation concerns, systemic issues, ways to enhance the program, and recommendations regarding the most effective method for participants to learn of individuals who are available to provide services and supports."

The SDSAC is here to serve all participants in SD, and the follow the provisions of the W&I Section. What has become apparent to SDSAC members over the years is that because of its size, and because it meets infrequently, it is unwieldy and does not function efficiently. It does not develop its own agenda. The purpose of the proposed Goal #1 is to establish a structure within which a smaller number of members may develop the SDSAC agenda with increased input from all of its members, prioritize its actions, and conduct the work of the SDSAC more efficiently, thereby resulting in meaningful accomplishment of the functions required by the W&I Section. We see no "downside" to the establishment of a Coordinating Committee; to the contrary, we believe that an opportunity exists to better serve the SCDD by the establishment of a Coordinating Committee.

I encourage you to reconsider the previous rejection of Goal #1 for the reasons stated above. Thank you.

Rick Wood | **WOOD LAW GROUP**
Attorney